

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 380

By Odom

A RESOLUTION to recognize Betsy L. Child for service as  
Commissioner of the Tennessee Department  
and Environment and Conservation.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who in their years of work have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Betsy L. Child is one such estimable person who has served with distinction as Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) since appointed by Governor Phil Bredeson to that post January 10, 2003; and

WHEREAS, as a resident of Tennessee for more than 20 years, Betsy L. Child has been an active and important part of her community and her profession; and

WHEREAS, a native of Springfield, Illinois, Ms. Child was employed in Alumni Relations at the University of Tennessee from 1982 until 1988, at which time she began serving as Director of Policy Development and Human Services in the Knoxville Mayor's office; and

WHEREAS, her aptitude and talents later led her to serve as Senior Vice President of Economic Development at the Tennessee Valley Authority from 1994 to 1999 and as Vice President of Community Partnerships from 1993 to 1999; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, Ms. Child commenced employment with Covenant Health, a Knoxville-based hospital system, as that organization's Senior Vice President of Philanthropy; and

WHEREAS, drawing upon her experience, perseverance, and resolve, Betsy L. Child has performed laudably as Commissioner of TDEC; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure, TDEC has witnessed the successful reorganization of the organization's Bureau of Environment and implementation of operational changes to address major challenges facing Tennessee's water, air, and petroleum underground storage tank program; and

WHEREAS, ever conscious of the growing need to decrease air pollution and increase air quality, Ms. Child's tenure has included supporting the efforts of Tennessee cities to achieve cleaner air sooner, including mechanisms such as burning management ordinances, reducing speed limits for heavy-duty diesel trucks, vehicle inspections, and the planning of transit options and green space; and

WHEREAS, her support of state involvement in expanded partnerships with organizations such as the Nature Conservancy, the Tennessee Wildlife Federation, the Land Trust for Tennessee, and other conservation groups reflects the Commissioner's acute awareness regarding the need to preserve Tennessee's precious history and scenic landscapes; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Child exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to environment and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable career in public service, Commissioner Betsy L. Child has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of her Governor, her colleagues, and her community members alike; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Betsy L. Child, a woman of great vision and ability, our heartfelt congratulations on her appointment to the office of Commissioner of the Tennessee Department and Environment and Conservation, thank her for her illustrious service to current and future generations of Tennesseans, and wish her every continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

